

From: GoodDoug
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 2:38pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am concerned about the proposed final judgement being considered in the case of United States v Microsoft. I want to relay my opinion that the settlement is biased and not a true deterrent for anti-competitive actions in the computer industry.

The courts have already decided that Microsoft has been using undue influence to increase its strangle hold on the computer industry. It has also shown that its anticompetitive practices are detrimental to consumers. The final argument as to the effectiveness of the proposed settlement is an issue of trust. Given the history of Microsoft, particularly with regard to intentionally inserting code to disable competing products, and others' implementations of "open" standards such as Java and SMB/CIFS. This issue is not addressed by the current proposal, neither is the issue of enforcement. As it is currently written, there is no real onus of responsibility implied, and the loose structure of definitions such as "API" and "Windows" allow for many loopholes and a lack of any real impetus to follow the spirit of the settlement.

I urge that you reconsider the settlement and impose a stronger one that will protect consumers and promote the evolution of the computer software industry appropriately.

Thank you,

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